

The bill (H.R. 4679) was considered read the third time, and passed.

MISSISSIPPI SIOUX TRIBES JUDGMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 708, S. 391.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 391) to provide for the disposition of certain funds appropriated to pay judgment in favor of the Mississippi Sioux Indians, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mississippi Sioux Tribes Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED INDIAN TRIBE.—The term "covered Indian tribe" means an Indian tribe listed in section 4(a).

(2) FUND ACCOUNT.—The term "Fund Account" means the consolidated account for tribal trust funds in the Treasury of the United States that is managed by the Secretary—

(A) through the Office of Trust Fund Management of the Department of the Interior; and

(B) in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) TRIBAL GOVERNING BODY.—The term "tribal governing body" means the duly elected governing body of a covered Indian tribe.

SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION TO, AND USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS BY, THE SISSETON AND WAHPETON TRIBES OF SIOUX INDIANS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d et seq.), any funds made available by appropriations under chapter II of Public Law 90-352 (82 Stat. 239) to the Sisseton and Wahpeton Tribes of Sioux Indians to pay a judgment in favor of those Indian tribes in Indian Claims Commission dockets numbered 142 and 359, including interest, that, as of the date of enactment of this Act, have not been distributed, shall be distributed and used in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 4. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO TRIBES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 8(e) and if no action is filed in a timely manner (as determined under section 8(d)) raising any claim identified in section 8(a), not earlier than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act and not later than 415 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall transfer to the Fund Account to be credited to accounts established in the Fund Account for the benefit of the applicable governing bodies under paragraph (2) an aggregate amount determined under subparagraph (B).

(B) AGGREGATE AMOUNT.—The aggregate amount referred to in subparagraph (A) is an amount equal to the remainder of—

(i) the funds described in section 3; minus

(ii) an amount equal to 71.6005 percent of the funds described in section 3.

(2) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO ACCOUNTS IN THE FUND ACCOUNT.—The Secretary shall ensure that the aggregate amount transferred under paragraph (1) is allocated to the accounts established in the Fund Account as follows:

(A) 28.9276 percent of that amount shall be allocated to the account established for the benefit of the tribal governing body of the Spirit Lake Tribe of North Dakota.

(B) 57.3145 percent of that amount, after payment of any applicable attorneys' fees and expenses by the Secretary under the contract numbered A00C14202991, approved by the Secretary on August 16, 1988, shall be allocated to the account established for the benefit of the tribal governing body of the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota.

(C) 13.7579 percent of that amount shall be allocated to the account established for the benefit of the tribal governing body of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana, as designated under subsection (c).

(b) USE.—Amounts distributed under this section to accounts referred to in subsection (d) for the benefit of a tribal governing body shall be distributed and used in a manner consistent with section 5.

(c) TRIBAL GOVERNING BODY OF ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF FORT PECK RESERVATION.—For purposes of making distributions of funds pursuant to this Act, the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux Council of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes shall act as the governing body of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation.

(d) TRIBAL TRUST FUND ACCOUNTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Office of Trust Fund Management of the Department of the Interior, shall ensure that such accounts as are necessary are established in the Fund Account to provide for the distribution of funds under subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 5. USE OF DISTRIBUTED FUNDS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No funds allocated for a covered Indian tribe under section 4 may be used to make per capita payments to members of the covered Indian tribe.

(b) PURPOSES.—The funds allocated under section 4 may be used, administered, and managed by a tribal governing body referred to in section 4(a)(2) only for the purpose of making investments or expenditures that the tribal governing body determines to be reasonably related to—

(1) economic development that is beneficial to the covered Indian tribe;

(2) the development of resources of the covered Indian tribe;

(3) the development of programs that are beneficial to members of the covered Indian tribe, including educational and social welfare programs;

(4) the payment of any existing obligation or debt (existing as of the date of the distribution of the funds) arising out of any activity referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3);

(5)(A) the payment of attorneys' fees or expenses of any covered Indian tribe referred to in subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 4(a)(2) for litigation or other representation for matters arising out of the enactment of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d et seq.); except that

(B) the amount of attorneys' fees paid by a covered Indian tribe under this paragraph with funds distributed under section 4 shall not exceed 10 percent of the amount distributed to that Indian tribe under that section;

(6) the payment of attorneys' fees or expenses of the covered Indian tribe referred to in section 4(a)(2)(B) for litigation and other representation for matters arising out of the enactment of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d et seq.), in accordance, as applicable, with the contracts

numbered A00C14203382 and A00C14202991, that the Secretary approved on February 10, 1978 and August 16, 1988, respectively; or

(7) the payment of attorneys' fees or expenses of any covered Indian tribe referred to in section 4(a)(2) for litigation or other representation with respect to matters arising out of this Act.

(c) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to subsections (a), (b), and (d), any funds distributed to a covered Indian tribe pursuant to sections 4 and 7 may be managed and invested by that Indian tribe pursuant to the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(d) WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS BY COVERED TRIBES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), each covered Indian tribe may, at the discretion of that Indian tribe, withdraw all or any portion of the funds distributed to the Indian tribe under sections 4 and 7 in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.).

(2) EXEMPTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the requirements under subsections (a) and (b) of section 202 of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 4022 (a) and (b)) and section 203 of such Act (25 U.S.C. 4023) shall not apply to a covered Indian tribe or the Secretary.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (2) may be construed to limit the applicability of section 202(c) of the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 4022(c)).

SEC. 6. EFFECT OF PAYMENTS TO COVERED INDIAN TRIBES ON BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A payment made to a covered Indian tribe or an individual under this Act shall not—

(1) for purposes of determining the eligibility for a Federal service or program of a covered Indian tribe, household, or individual, be treated as income or resources; or

(2) otherwise result in the reduction or denial of any service or program to which, pursuant to Federal law (including the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.)), the covered Indian tribe, household, or individual would otherwise be entitled.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 304 of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d-8) shall apply to any funds distributed under this Act.

SEC. 7. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO LINEAL DESCENDANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 8(e), the Secretary shall, in the manner prescribed in section 202(c) of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d-4(c)), distribute to the lineal descendants of the Sisseton and Wahpeton Tribes of Sioux Indians an amount equal to 71.6005 percent of the funds described in section 3, subject to any reduction determined under subsection (b).

(b) ADJUSTMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 8(e), if the number of individuals on the final roll of lineal descendants certified by the Secretary under section 201(b) of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d-3(b)) is less than 2,588, the Secretary shall distribute a reduced aggregate amount to the lineal descendants referred to in subsection (a), determined by decreasing—

(A) the percentage specified in section 4(a)(B)(ii) by a percentage amount equal to—

(i) .0277; multiplied by

(ii) the difference between 2,588 and the number of lineal descendants on the final roll of lineal descendants, but not to exceed 600; and

(B) the percentage specified in subsection (a) by the percentage amount determined under subparagraph (A).

(2) DISTRIBUTION.—If a reduction in the amount that otherwise would be distributed under subsection (a) is made under paragraph (1), an amount equal to that reduction shall be added to the amount available for distribution under section 4(a)(1), for distribution in accordance with section 4(a)(2).

(c) **VERIFICATION OF ANCESTRY.**—In seeking to verify the Sisseton and Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux Tribe ancestry of any person applying for enrollment on the roll of lineal descendants after January 1, 1998, the Secretary shall certify that each individual enrolled as a lineal descendant can trace ancestry to a specific Sisseton or Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux Tribe lineal ancestor who was listed on—

(1) the 1909 Sisseton and Wahpeton annuity roll;

(2) the list of Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux prisoners convicted for participating in the outbreak referred to as the "1862 Minnesota Outbreak";

(3) the list of Sioux scouts, soldiers, and heirs identified as Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux on the roll prepared pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1891 (26 Stat. 989 et seq., chapter 543); or

(4) any other Sisseton or Wahpeton payment or census roll that preceded a roll referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 202(a) of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d-4(a)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding the table—

(i) by striking ", plus accrued interest,"; and

(ii) by inserting "plus interest received (other than funds otherwise distributed to the Sisseton and Wahpeton Tribes of Sioux Indians in accordance with the Mississippi Sioux Tribes Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 1998)," after "docket numbered 359,"; and

(B) in the table contained in that subsection, by striking the item relating to "All other Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux";

(2) **ROLL.**—Section 201(b) of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d-3(b)) is amended by striking "The Secretary" and inserting "Subject to the Mississippi Sioux Tribes Judgment Fund Distribution Act of 1998, the Secretary".

SEC. 8. JURISDICTION; PROCEDURE.

(a) **ACTIONS AUTHORIZED.**—In any action brought by or on behalf of a lineal descendant or any group or combination of those lineal descendants to challenge the constitutionality or validity of distributions under this Act to any covered Indian tribe, any covered Indian tribe, separately, or jointly with another covered Indian tribe, shall have the right to intervene in that action to—

(1) defend the validity of those distributions; or

(2) assert any constitutional or other claim challenging the distributions made to lineal descendants under this Act.

(b) **JURISDICTION AND VENUE.**—

(1) **EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.**—Subject to paragraph (2), only the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and for the districts in North Dakota and South Dakota, shall have original jurisdiction over any action brought to contest the constitutionality or validity under law of the distributions authorized under this Act.

(2) **CONSOLIDATION OF ACTIONS.**—After the filing of a first action under subsection (a), all other actions subsequently filed under that subsection shall be consolidated with that first action.

(3) **JURISDICTION BY THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS.**—If appropriate, the United States Court of Federal Claims shall have jurisdiction over an action referred to in subsection (a).

(c) **NOTICE TO COVERED TRIBES.**—In an action brought under this section, not later than 30 days after the service of a summons and complaint on the Secretary that raises a claim identified in subsection (a), the Secretary shall send a copy of that summons and complaint, together with any responsive pleading, to each covered Indian tribe by certified mail with return receipt requested.

(d) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**—No action raising a claim referred to in subsection (a) may be filed after the date that is 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) **SPECIAL RULE.**—

(1) **FINAL JUDGMENT FOR LINEAL DESCENDANTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If an action that raises a claim referred to in subsection (a) is brought, and a final judgment is entered in favor of 1 or more lineal descendants referred to in that subsection, section 4(a) and subsections (a) and (b) of section 7 shall not apply to the distribution of the funds described in subparagraph (B).

(B) **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—Upon the issuance of a final judgment referred to in subparagraph (A) the Secretary shall distribute 100 percent of the funds described in section 3 to the lineal descendants in a manner consistent with—

(i) section 202(c) of Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300d-4(c)); and

(ii) section 202(a) of Public Law 92-555, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **FINAL JUDGMENT FOR COVERED INDIAN TRIBES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—If an action that raises a claim referred to in subsection (a) is brought, and a final judgment is entered in favor of 1 or more covered Indian tribes that invalidates the distributions made under this Act to lineal descendants, section 4(a), other than the percentages under section 4(a)(2), and subsections (a) and (b) of section 7 shall not apply.

(B) **DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the issuance of a final judgment referred to in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall distribute 100 percent of the funds described in section 3 to each covered Indian tribe in accordance with the judgment and the percentages for distribution contained in section 4(a)(2).

(f) **LIMITATION ON CLAIMS BY A COVERED INDIAN TRIBE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If any covered Indian tribe receives any portion of the aggregate amounts transferred by the Secretary to a Fund Account or any other account under section 4, no action may be brought by that covered Indian tribe in any court for a claim arising from the distribution of funds under Public Law 92-555 (25 U.S.C. 1300-d et seq.).

(2) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the right of a covered Indian tribe to—

(A) intervene in an action that raises a claim referred to in subsection (a); or

(B) limit the jurisdiction of any court referred to in subsection (b), to hear and determine any such claims.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, S. 391, the Mississippi Sioux Judgment Fund Distribution Act is a bill intended to resolve a longstanding problem with respect to a judgment fund distribution to Sisseton and Wahpeton tribes in the Dakotas and Montana. The bill would distribute an additional 7.1 percent of the funds, plus accrued interest, awarded by the Indian Claims Commission in 1967 to the Sisseton and Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux Tribes. This legislation is cosponsored by Senators BAUCUS, BURNS, CONRAD, DASCHLE, and Johnson.

In 1972, Congress enacted legislation that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to distribute 75 percent of the \$5.9 million judgment award to the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe of North Dakota (now known as the Spirit Lake Tribe), the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota, and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Council of the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana. The remaining 25 percent was to be distributed to individuals who could trace

their lineal ancestry to a member of the aboriginal Sisseton and Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux, the predecessor to the three modern-day tribal entities. The judgment was compensation for the 27 million acres of land taken from this aboriginal tribe in the 19th century.

Congress made the decision to allocate 25 percent of the original judgment to the lineal descendants at the urging of the Department of the Interior. The Department, in 1972, felt that historical events warranted a departure from precedent which was to make awards to tribes and not to individuals. In fact, the 1967 Indian Claims Commission judgment awarded compensation only to the successor tribes to the aboriginal Sisseton and Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux tribe, not to individual lineal descendants.

The three Sisseton and Wahpeton tribes received their respective shares of the judgment award by the mid-1970's. To date, though, the funds allocated for the lineal descendants have not been distributed. This has resulted in a situation where the accrued interest on the original principle of approximately \$1.5 million has now grown to more than \$15 million.

If the 1,988 lineal descendants identified to date by the Department of the Interior receive the \$15 million in per capita payments, they would receive more than 18 times what the 11,829 enrolled members received in the 1970's. Moreover, since these identified lineal descendants comprise only 14 percent of the total number of tribal and non-tribal member descendants, the 25 percent allocated for lineal descendants in the 1972 act would permit each lineal descendant to receive almost twice as much as did the enrolled tribal members who were compensated in the 1970's, not counting interest.

In 1987, the three Sisseton and Wahpeton tribes filed suit in federal court to challenge the constitutionality of the lineal descendant provisions of the 1972 Act. When this legislation failed, in 1997 the tribes filed a new suit in federal court challenging these provision on constitutional grounds. This second suit is currently on appeal. In 1992, Congress enacted legislation which authorized the Attorney-General to settle these cases on any terms agreed to by the parties involved. However, the Department of Justice has refused to proceed with any settlement negotiations and has taken the position that the 1992 law did not authorize the Department to settle these cases on any terms other than those laid out in the original 1972 act. While I believe that this interpretation flies in the face of congressional intent, the Department has been unwilling to pursue the issue.

S. 391 represents a reasonable solution to this matter and a substantial compromise on the part of the tribes. In the past, the tribes have sought complete repeal of the lineal descendant provisions of the 1972 act.

In 1986, a bill was reported out by the Select Committee on Indian Affairs which would have achieved this goal. The Department of the Interior supported this bill, explaining in a letter to the then Chairman of the Select Committee: "As a general rule, we believe that each distribution of the Indian judgment funds should benefit the aggrieved historic tribe for which the award was made. If the historic tribe is no longer in existence, we believe that judgment funds should be programmed, to the greatest extent possible, to the present-day successor tribe(s) to the historic tribe."

In this Congress, the tribes supported legislation that would have retained the undistributed principal for the lineal descendants and distributed the accrued interest to the three tribes. S. 391, as originally introduced, adopted this approach. H.R. 976, an identical bill introduced in the House, passed last year.

After the House acted on this legislation, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs held a hearing last October on H.R. 976 and another hearing last July on an S. 391 substitute. The bill before us today is the product of exhaustive negotiations between the parties involved and the subject of frequent consultations between congressional staff and representatives of the Departments of Interior and Justice that occurred in the past 12 months. Every effort has been made to consider and accommodate the concerns of these Departments while making sure that the tribes receive an additional distribution of at least 7.1 percent of the judgment award.

While I believe that this legislation is a fundamentally fair solution to a problem that has remained unsolved for 30 years and that would persist for many more years without congressional intervention, none of the parties is entirely satisfied with the legislation. The tribes accept the legislation for what it provides but continue to maintain that they have a constitutional right to all of the undistributed funds. Certain persons seeking lineal descendant status have alleged that this legislation deprives them of their property.

Because it is in the best interests of the United States and the other parties to bring an end to this problem, the bill provides that if the lineal descendants do not challenge the constitutionality of the bill's distribution to the tribes within one year following enactment, they are barred from bringing such a challenge in the future. On the other hand, if the lineal descendants do bring a timely challenge to the tribal distribution, the bill provides that the tribes have a right to intervene to challenge the constitutionality of the distribution made to lineal descendants. This provision would enable a federal court to finally and conclusively determine on the merits the respective constitutional claims of these parties and permanently put to rest what has been an endless legal dispute.

Even after these legal disputes are settled, the Department of the Interior will continue, pursuant to a federal court order, to identify new lineal descendants who did not receive adequate notice in the 1970's of their right to participate in the judgment distribution. I am concerned about the determination of eligibility to participate of any newly identified lineal descendants. The 1972 act requires that eligibility be based on an individual's ability to trace ancestry to a lineal ancestor who was a member of the Sisseton and Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux Tribe. In their litigation the tribes alleged that only 65 of the 1,988 identified lineal descendants met this requirement. The government did not contradict this allegation but argued that the issue was irrelevant because the 1972 act allows the Secretary to identify ancestors on 20th century rolls. S. 391 changes this provision of the 1972 act to require the use of rolls as contemporaneous as possible to the existence of the aboriginal Sisseton and Wahpeton Mississippi Sioux Tribe in order to assure, consistent with the 1972 act, that a specific lineal ancestor from that tribe can be identified. Finally, it bears reemphasizing that the reason for this legislation is to correct an injustice suffered by the three tribes as a result of the 1972 act. The tribes, not individuals, were wronged by the taking of 27 million acres of treaty-protected lands owned by their aboriginal predecessor. In my view, in 1972 no amount of the judgment awarded for the taking of these lands should have been allocated to lineal descendants. Allocations to lineal descendants from Indian Claims Commission judgments long ago became a discredited policy and were generally abandoned. However, since 26 years have passed since the enactment of the 1972 act, I believe that the lineal descendants should receive a portion of the judgment. S. 391 would distribute about 30% of the undistributed funds to the tribes and about 70% to the unaffiliated lineal descendants.

This split of the undistributed funds would equalize the distribution between tribal lineal descendants and the non-tribal member class of lineal descendants. Capping the non-tribal member class at 600 persons more than the 1,988 already identified lineal descendants was the method the Committee adopted for calculating the percent of the undistributed funds to be allocated to lineal descendants regardless of the final identified number. The split is not an attempt to achieve perfect parity among all lineal descendants, both tribal members and non-tribal members. I recognize that there is some chance that the final identified number of lineal descendants may exceed 2,588. Whatever the final number may be, those lineal descendants will equally share the 70% allocation.

However, the distribution split is justified because the tribes should be the primary beneficiaries of the judgment

they won after 17 years of litigation before the Indian Claims Commission. They were under compensated in the 1972 act based on their numbers and it is important that these judgment funds, to the greatest extent possible, be used to support tribal government programs and services. Moreover, the split is based on actual identified lineal descendants plus a reasonable additional number who may be identified in the future and represents a reasonable and long overdue resolution of this issue.

Finally, I want to clarify the intent of a portion of subsection (f) of section 8, a subsection added to S. 391 in the last few days. The reference in subparagraph (2)(B) of that subsection to "any such claims" includes any claim that may be brought in intervention by a covered Indian tribe.

I urge my colleagues to adopt S. 391.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute amendment be agreed to, bill as amended be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 391), as amended, was considered read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICES

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Con. Res. 119, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 119) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the American Red Cross Blood Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the American Red Cross Blood Services. The Red Cross Blood Services has been saving lives since its inception during World War II. Today, in a rapidly changing health care environment, with ever increasing challenges, the Red Cross continues to serve patients throughout our country.

The Red Cross is America's first nationwide, volunteer blood collection and distribution system. During World War II, the Red Cross saved soldiers' lives by collecting and distributing blood. This led to the first National Civilian Blood Program, with the opening